

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUMTER LAW ENFORCEMENT PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, as the nation pauses to celebrate 25 years of federal recognition of National Police Week, I rise to pay tribute to law enforcement officers in South Carolina and across the country who serve and protect our families and communities every day.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to speak at a prayer breakfast in my hometown of Sumter, South Carolina. The prayer breakfast was hosted by the Sumter County Sheriff's Department and the City of Sumter Police Department. I am grateful Sheriff Anthony Dennis honored me with his invitation to speak at the prayer breakfast.

The theme for the event was, "Badge of Honor," which is fitting because when our brave men and women serve our communities day in and day out, they bring great personal honor to their duties. Police work is often dangerous and too frequently thankless, so I think it's important for those of us in elected office to pause and say sincerely, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of National Police Week, I want to say thank you to the law enforcement officers and their families in South Carolina and throughout this great land.

REAFFIRMATION OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AND THE SIX ASSURANCES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 88 reaffirming the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and the six assurances as cornerstones of the United States-Taiwan relations.

Since its enactment, the TRA has played an indispensable role in shaping U.S.-Taiwan relations, resulting in a mutually-beneficial relationship that encourages strong security, cultural, and economic ties.

The TRA is unique because it is the only law to govern nearly every aspect of U.S. relations within a foreign government in the absence of diplomatic relations.

Taiwan's story is unique in that it is an example to the world of the potential of a country.

Indeed, Taiwan and the United States share many values including:

1. a commitment to democracy;
2. a commitment to human rights and the rule of law; and
3. a commitment to economic prosperity.

Maintaining and deepening our strong relations with Taiwan is an important part of U.S. engagement in Asia, a region of great and growing importance to the United States.

This includes a vital security and strategic interest within the Taiwan Strait, where United States troops are stationed within the Taiwan Strait region.

Further, Taiwan has grown to become America's ninth-largest overall trading partner and our seventh-largest destination for agricultural exports.

Indeed, I am particularly proud that as a Member of the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, my colleagues and I can serve an important role in strengthening bilateral relations by engaging our counterparts in Taiwan.

Not too long ago, we commemorated the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

I encourage my colleagues to continue to join me in support of and in promotion of our bilateral relations with Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the speech delivered by Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou on March 30, 2016, in which he emphasized the strong and abiding friendship between Taiwan and the United States, which was integral to Taiwan's transformation into the free, prosperous, and just society it is today.

President Ma also spoke of Taiwan's future through the lens of three key issues:

1. cross-strait relations;
2. energy; and
3. economic development.

President Ma also mentioned that through the effort to seek peace, Taiwan has become a peacemaker and provider of humanitarian aid.

I also want to congratulate Taiwan on the January 16, 2016 election of the first female President to be elected—Dr. Tsai Ing-wen.

Mr. Speaker, the inauguration of President Dr. Tsai Ing-wen is the third peaceful transition of power in Taiwan's democratic history.

The United States congratulates the people and government of Taiwan on the election of President Tsai Ing-wen and Taiwan's enduring and strong commitment to nurturing democracy, human rights and the rule-of-law.

This is why I support and urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 88.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be submitted on H.R. 4909:

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. THORNBERRY: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the committee waives consideration of the bill.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4909 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. JEFF MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, which contains substantial matter that falls within the Rule X legislative jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I appreciate the cooperation that allowed us to work out mutually agreeable text on numerous matters prior to your markup.

Based on that cooperation and our associated understandings, the Foreign Affairs

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Committee will not seek a sequential referral or object to floor consideration of the bill text approved at your Committee markup. This decision in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdictional interests of the Foreign Affairs Committee in this bill, any subsequent amendments, or similar legislation. I request your support for the appointment of House Foreign Affairs conferees during any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

Finally, I respectfully request that you include this letter and your response in your committee report on the bill and in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4909 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Foreign Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Foreign Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES,
May 2, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I write to you concerning H.R. 4909, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, which contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ("the Committee"). The Committee recognizes the need for proceeding expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill. Therefore, I do not intend to request a sequential referral.

This waiver is conditional on our mutual understanding that my decision to forego Committee consideration of this legislation does not diminish or otherwise affect any future claim over the matters in the bill which fall within the Committee's jurisdiction, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee's jurisdictional interest will be placed into the committee report on H.R. 4909 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

I also intend to seek appointment of Committee members to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and request your support if such a request is made. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this and other matters between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, because it fails to support our troops serving overseas. The House Armed Services Committee reported a bill that uses a budget gimmick to circumvent funding caps Congress passed into law on a bipartisan basis, and by doing so it not only undermines the budget process, it puts our troops at risk. The bill cuts \$18 billion from what our military commanders say is needed to support our troops overseas, and shifts those funds into the base defense budget to purchase billions of dollars of weapon systems the Defense Department did not even request. Consequently, the bill provides only enough funding for the troops deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq through April, 2017. This would then force Congress to pass an emergency supplemental to ensure that troops who are serving in harm's way have the resources they need for the remainder of the year. We shouldn't gamble with the troops we send off to battle. They deserve predictable support for the entire year as they execute their missions, particularly in view of the dangers they face.

Representative ELLISON offered an amendment to undo part of this gimmick. His amendment cuts \$9.4 billion of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds the bill shifted to procurement for weapons DoD didn't ask for and puts it back into operations and maintenance, where DoD requested it for overseas operations. I supported the amendment because it puts the troops first. It gives them the certainty they need while they carry out their missions. It is also what our military com-

manders say they need. Unfortunately, that amendment did not pass.

As the Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, I also have worked hard to defend the integrity of the budget process and to end the abuse of the OCO designation to circumvent budget caps. I offered a bipartisan amendment with Representative MULVANEY that attempts to help reduce this abuse in the future. The amendment codifies criteria developed by OMB to clarify when military spending should be designated as contingency operations. To provide the necessary resources for a strong military and vital domestic investments, it is imperative our budget process be transparent and deliberative. Using budget gimmicks perpetuates bad decisions, increases debt by obfuscating spending, and in this case, puts the troops at risk.

This NDAA once again abdicates Congressional responsibility to revise and update the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF). The 2001 AUMF has been used to conduct a broad range of military operations across the world for the past fifteen years. Rather than act to narrowly target that authority to meet our current operational and national security requirements, Congress has continued to provide the Executive with a blank check to deploy American ground troops in many places in the Middle East and elsewhere around the globe. Representative LEE offered an amendment to force Congress to meet its constitutional obligations regarding its war powers. While I do not believe we should totally eliminate all authorities under the 2001 AUMF, I do believe we need to dramatically reduce its scope and end the grant of blank check authority to the Executive.

The NDAA should focus only on soldiers and their needs. However, Republicans have used it as a vehicle to insert inflammatory and non-germane amendments. It includes an amendment that reverses the President's Executive Order that prevents federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT employees. It removes environmental protections, impedes development of alternative fuel sources to decrease our dependence on foreign fuel, and it prevents the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

I applaud certain measures such as the 2.1 percent pay raise for armed services, research to combat the opioid epidemic that is impacting our veterans, increased funding to combat veteran homelessness, and expanding the parental leave policy for active duty service members. I remain committed to fighting for these important issues but I cannot support the unacceptable budget gimmicks and policy riders in the underlying bill.

Mr. Chair, I vote nay.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
ROCKY MCPHERSON

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of retired Marine Colonel Rocky McPherson, who is retiring after 50 years of service to our nation and the state of Florida.

Upon graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1966, Rocky was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United